

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/004381

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A61B17/34

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>US 6 142 936 A (CARROLL MAUREEN E ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07)</p> <p>A device for retracting edges of an incision in a surface to form an opening including: a flexible, tubular skirt having an upper end, a lower end. column 5, line 45 – column 6, line 66 column 9, line 53 – column 10, line 52 column 12, line 15 – line 65</p> <p>-----</p> <p>US 5 899 208 A (BONADIO FRANK) 4 May 1999 (1999-05-04)</p> <p>Hand access port comprising a sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end. the whole document</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19
X		1-5, 8-10, 13, 17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

## ° Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Filali, S

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/004381

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 522 791 A (LEYVA HORACIO A) 4 June 1996 (1996-06-04) Apparatus for retracting an incision and inflating an abdominal cavity column 2, line 65 - column 5, line 43 figures 3-6 -----	1,7-13

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/004381

## Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 20 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee..
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/004381

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 6142936	A	07-11-2000	US	5906577 A		25-05-1999
			US	2002183594 A1		05-12-2002
			US	6440063 B1		27-08-2002
			AT	245392 T		15-08-2003
			AU	745359 B2		21-03-2002
			AU	7274698 A		24-11-1998
			CA	2288023 A1		05-11-1998
			DE	69816613 D1		28-08-2003
			DE	69816613 T2		15-04-2004
			EP	1312318 A1		21-05-2003
			EP	0981302 A1		01-03-2000
			JP	3181299 B2		03-07-2001
			JP	2000501978 T		22-02-2000
			JP	2001212150 A		07-08-2001
			WO	9848724 A1		05-11-1998
US 5899208	A	04-05-1999	IE	960196 A2		27-08-1997
US 5522791	A	04-06-1996		NONE		